

# National Service Impact in Oklahoma

## AmeriCorps

Oklahoma is one of only 14 states that does not budget for out-of-school time programs for children between the ages of 5-18. The OK Serves program places 75 AmeriCorps members at 22 nonprofit organizations and schools statewide. Member activities include the implementation of high quality programs including mentoring, tutoring, homework help, college and job preparation, nutrition and fitness education, arts, science and technology education, community gardening, character development, service learning, and prevention education to youth ages 5 through 18. Since the inception of the OK Serves program in 2004, 629 OK Serves members have impacted the lives of more than 329,000 underserved Oklahoma youth. Each program year, OK Serves surpasses outcome measurement goals indicating that youth are benefiting from program participation academically, emotionally, and behaviorally.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Oklahoma has the unfortunate distinction of having the highest incarceration rates in the nation for women and the third highest for men. The Oklahoma Kids Count 2010 Factbook estimated that 27,000 children in Oklahoma have a parent in prison. New Hope works with these children, helping them to become positive, productive, contributing members of society through resiliency and prevention programs. AmeriCorps NCCC members allow New Hope to expand its summer camp programming and serve more children. Exposure to positive role models and additional skill sets increases campers' competence in life skills and development. This past summer members supported 150 at-risk youth, inventoried and repaired 400 books, and served 780 meals.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Oklahoma administers the nationwide American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsored AmeriCorps VISTA project. The ALA Call to Service Corps places VISTA members in military and veteran support organizations and civilian nonprofit organizations seeking to build and enhance their capacity to serve and mobilize veterans, military service members, and their families. Exemplary of the project's impact, two VISTA members, both U.S. veterans, managed the Macon Georgia Stand Down event for homeless veterans. The event in September 2013 served more than 500 veterans and 30 families of veterans. The VISTA members secured the commitment and successful participation of more than 200 volunteers, including a groundbreaking participation with Robins Air Force Base 78th Wing Air Base Support Group and the 116th Air National Guard, realizing a combined presence of more than 35 active duty uniformed volunteers.

## Senior Corps

The 111 Senior Companion volunteers of Sunbeam Family Services, Inc. in Oklahoma and Cleveland counties provided 300,136 hours of companionship to 354 low-income seniors. The Senior Companions helped their clients move from feelings of isolation, loneliness, and fear of nursing home placement, to feelings of connectedness, belonging, and permanency while helping 95 family caregivers avoid caregiver burnout. For clients at risk of nursing home placement, 88 percent maintained placement at home. For clients with a family caregiver, 94 percent maintained their placement at home. The average annual cost per 560 clients served, inclusive of Senior Companion volunteers, is \$1,205 per year compared with the average annual cost of nursing home placement of \$47,450 per year. The Senior Companion Program produces important value for the volunteer, client, caregiver, and taxpayer.

## Social Innovation Fund

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) are replicating five effective anti-poverty programs originally piloted by CEO with Social Innovation Fund (SIF) support. By advancing the education, employment and financial savings of low-income adults and families, the programs combat poverty across a diverse cross-section of America. Two of the Mayor's Fund's nonprofit subgrantees are working in Oklahoma: Community Action Project of Tulsa and Madison Strategies Group. These two organizations received initial grants totaling over \$600,000, which they will match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. With these investments, they expect to serve an additional 2,060 individuals and families.